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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1898.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, BRISTOL, 1898.

I.

FOR the third time in its history the British Association meets in your City of Bristol. The first meeting was held under the presidency of the Marquis of Lansdowne in 1836, the second under the presidency of Sir John Hawkshaw in 1875. Formerly the President unrolled to the meeting a panorama of the year's progress in physical and biological sciences. To-day the President usually restricts himself to specialities connected with his own work or deals with questions which for the time are uppermost. To be President of the British Association is undoubtedly a great honor. It is also a great opportunity and a great responsibility; for I know that, on the wings of the press, my words, be they worthy or not, will be carried to all points of the compass. I propose first to deal with the important question of the supply of bread to the inhabitants of these islands, then to touch on subjects to which my life work has been more or less devoted. I shall not attempt any general survey of the sciences; these, so far as the progress in them demands attention, will be more fitly brought before you in the different sections, either in the addresses of the presidents or in communications from members.